

# ILLUSTRATED SPORTING NEWS



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THE THREE NORFOLK CHAMPIONS:

BEN SEXTON (THE SKITTLE PLAYER), JEM MACE (THE PUGILIST), AND JOHN BRIGHTON (THE PEDESTRIAN).





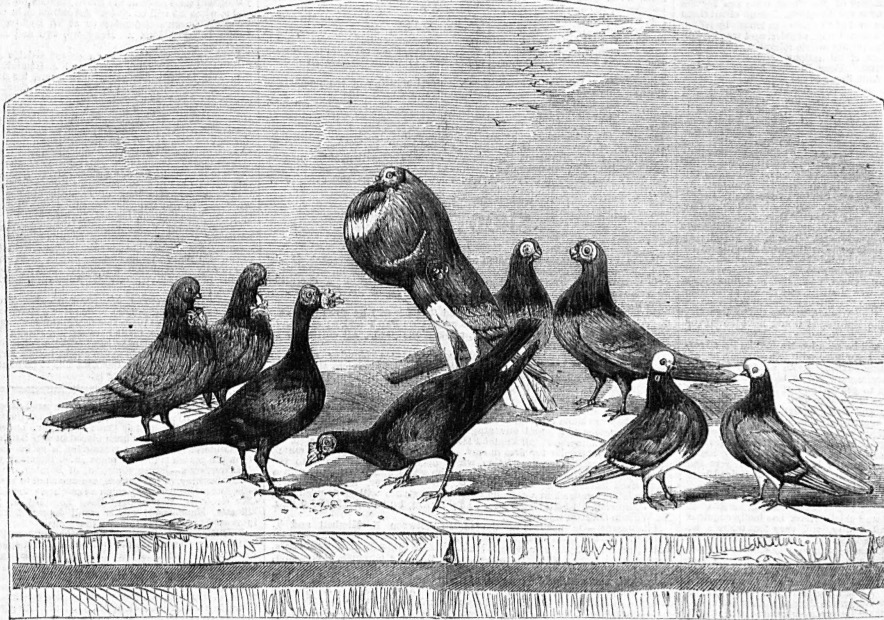


OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

Our triple-figured illustration in the front page gives an admirable portrait of the three Norfolk Champions—Ben Maco, of pugilistic celebrity; Ben Sexton, the renowned skittle player; and Jack Brighton, the milkboy. How the rocket sped in the rising career of Maco, with his Zangara blood coursing through his veins, has been so often traced in our columns, that a very brief allusion to the brown-kneed boxer is all that is necessary. He was born at Beeston, near Swaffham, in the year 1811, and stands 5ft 8½ in. high. Since the money hazardous in his performances has amounted to no less a sum than £3,470; and the only man who he ever seems to have thought invincible, was Milsenan Mike Madden. Like the noted Tom Spring, and other famed manipulators, he has vanquished every man he ever fought, his *to triumph* swelling to the eight victories over Black Thorpe, Bob Brettie, Bob Travers, Posh Price, Sam Hurst, Tom King, and Joe Goss—the latter said to be a £1,000 match. While he has forfeited £75 to Mike Madden, yet he received forfeit of £50 from Bill Ryall, of Birmingham. He is the smallest man who ever became champion, and gained his first belt honours on the 15th of June, 1861, the anniversary of the memorable battle of Waterloo. Thus he is proud to wear the form of the English gladiator's guard, which he views with as much interest as the *ephebe* or gladiator of the Hebrews. For a lengthened period he was host of the Old King John, Holywell-lane, Shoreditch—Joe Holmes, the Spider's well-remembered drum—but has left it, as the premises are wanted for railway purposes.

On his right hand is Ben Sexton, of Warwick. In the game of "skittles," properly so-called, Ben Sexton is considered, and no doubt is, the champion of "heavy ball" play. He stands 6ft 8in, and is 37 years of age; he has reduced even "Knock-'em-Down," vulgar—vulgar as it may appear to be—to a science. No countryman, as his comrades say, has a chance with "Ben," and never has he met anyone who could master him fairly. His greatest match was with Ben Hunter, when they played for £50, at Lynn, in Norfolk. This great match lasted three days, and Sexton won by two chalks, the ball being 11lb. It was a grand trial of skill, and the long duration of the match will be best explained by stating the fact that, at one stretch, 73 floors by each were scored. Therefore Ben Sexton is the "decided champion" at the heavy ball, for he vanquished the celebrated London Champion, William Toogood, in a 11lb ball match, by five chalks. In a match with the 4lb ball, Toogood turned the tables by scoring 26 chalks out of 21; and also in their contest in 1852, Toogood was even victorious in a match for £100, the ball being confined to 8lb, which came off at the Hand-in-Hand, Frog-lane, Tullydon, the Cockney winning by five chalks. Sexton has defeated "all comers" in the provinces, and, despite illustrations of sport and sporting matters, we are pleased to see him form one of the important group now before the reader. In connection with the subject of skittles we may here remark that we shall speedily give a sketch of his noted rival Quailman Toogood, who, in his 33rd year, is unquestionably the evergreen Champion of the light-ball skittle play.

Last, but not least, we have a correct delineation of Bannor, whose career in the pedestrian world has always been coupled with marked interest. He, like Jackson, the American Deer, is Norwich bred, is placed on Maco's left hand, and looks all over like "showing the way." He was of the Deerfoot troupe who contended before the Prince of Wales at Cambridge, and was, with the remainder of his comrades, a recipient of the English letter's bounty. Brighton's chief performances are as follow:—Height, 5ft 6½ in; weight, 8st 12lb; born July 14, 1832. Beaten by B. Bond, Norwich, one mile, for £5 a side; beat Nobbs, of Norwich, half a mile, £10; won £10 against time, at Yarmouth, miles in ten minutes; matched with Mower one mile, for £10 a side—



MANCHESTER PRIZE PIGEONS.

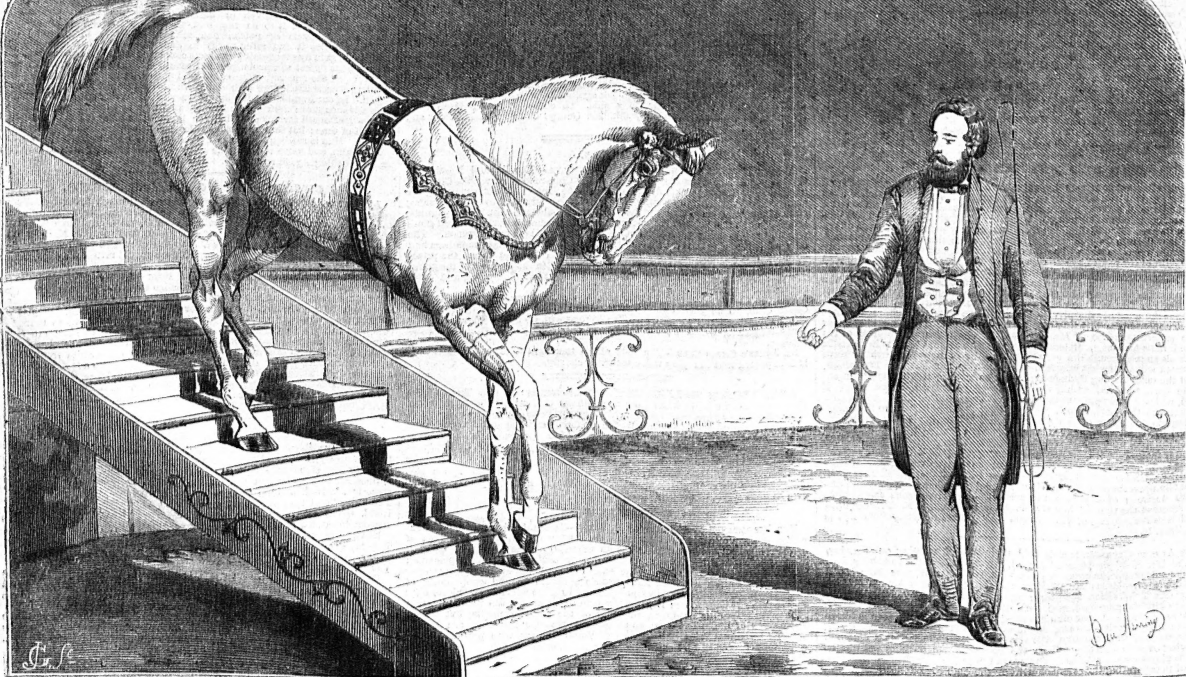
£7 10s. forfeited by Mower; beat Mower, two miles, for £20 a side (Mower receiving 10 yds' start); beat Mower, one mile, for £5 note, at Green-hill Gardens, Norwich; won half a mile race at Ayr, Scotland, defeating Fromo, Smith (of London), Murdoch, and others, £10; won one mile handicap at Garrett-lane, Wandsworth, defeating Cook, Fromo, Pudney, and several others, £10; won a five mile handicap at Salford Borough Gardens, Manchester, defeating Job Smith, Whitmore, and Sullivan, of Liverpool, £10 being the first prize; beat Sanderson, three miles, for £25 a side, at the Copenhagen Grounds, Manchester; won four mile belt and £10 at Brompton, defeating Jackson and Andrews; won six mile belt and £10 at Hackney Wick, defeating Lang, Mills, Barker, Job Smith, and Jones; beaten by White for six mile belt and £25 a side, at Hackney Wick; beaten by White for the four mile belt and £25 a side, at Brompton; Lang challenged White, who forfeited the four mile belt; Brighton challenged Lang, who also forfeited; beaten by Pudney, five miles, for £25 a side, at Hackney Wick; beat Sanderson, two miles, for £25 a side, at the Copenhagen Grounds, Manchester; beat E. Mills, four miles, for £25 a side, at Hackney Wick; beaten by E. Mills, 6 miles, for £25 a side and belt, at Hackney Wick; beat Jackson (who had 800 yds' start in 10 miles) for silver cup, value 50 guineas, on Boxing-day, December 25, 1861; won ten mile Champion Cup and £25 a side, at Norwich, defeating Barker, Mills, and Jones; beat Cliffe, of Leeds for £25 a side, Cliffe receiving 1,250 yds in 6 miles.

The Manchester Prize Pigeons form a very handsome and interesting group; and Ben Herring, Esq., has been singularly faithful in the portrayal of Mr. Charles Hengler's invaluable and handsome Decrow, an American bred horse, in one of that animal's principal feats at the Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington, where he has been daily eliciting thunders of applause by his astonishing intelligence, docility, and perfection in performance.

JOHN HAYES CLASPER, of Paradise House, Durham, is the eldest son of the celebrated Henry Clasper. He was born on the 13th of October, 1836, conse-

quently, he will be twenty-eight next birthday; and, though scarcely in his prime, he inherits all the scientific points at the oar, which have made his father's name so celebrated throughout the world; and, as a boat-builder, he bids fair to equal, if not surpass, him. His height is 5ft 6½ in., and he weighs, when stripped, 8st 3½. Though only of light construction, his frame is well knitted together, and being possessed of thorough gameness, his lasting powers are wonderful for a man of so light a build. When ten years old he was entrusted with the lines in several contests, and in 1849, at the Thames National Regatta, he steered the two Coombes and the two Claspers to victory for the Champion Prize. The next two years, on account of being very light, he generally marshalled the then celebrated crew; and in 1852 rowed his first match, beating, with his uncle, Haver, Messrs. Bagnall and Cresswell, in a pair-oared race from the Spit Tower to the High Level Bridge, on the Tyne, at Newcastle. He next tried the sculls, and in August of the same year, rowed second for the Youth's Prize at the Newcastle and Gateshead Regatta. In 1853, at the Tyne Regatta, with J. Oliver, S. Salter, and E. Hawks stroke, won the first heat; but had to succumb to H. Clasper's crew in the final heat. In 1854 he was bound to be a London Waterman, and at Richmond won the Tradesmen's Silver Cup, beating young Styles and Sanderson by 200 yds. In 1855, in a four-oared race, won a piece of plate. At the Thames Regatta, in 1856, in the Coombes and Budge, won the first heat, beating Tom White and others; but was beat in the final heat by Hamerton. At Newcastle, Barge-day, started in a skiff race, rowed and lost. In 1856, he so far improved that he was admitted as bow oarsman to the champion crew, and at Durham Regatta, with H. Chambers, R. Clasper, and H. Clasper, won the Patron's Plate. At the same regatta, with H. Clasper, won the Members' Plate, in pair-oars, and also won the Skiff Race, beating R. Chambers and others. In December, the same year, beat John Carroll, for £40 a side, on the Clyde; and on Christmas day, beat Carroll again, for £25 a side, on the Clyde. In 1857, at Durham Regatta, with R. Chambers, H. Clasper, and H. Clasper, won the Patron's Plate; and with H. Clasper, won the Members' Plate; but was beaten by R. Chambers in the Skiff Race. In July was beaten by S. Wright, at Norwich by half a length; and in August, was again beaten by Wright, on the Tyne. The same year, at the Thames Regatta, with R. Chambers, A. Maddison, and H. Clasper, won the Champion Prize of 100 sovereigns, beating the Manchester, Wandsworth, and Hammermill crews, and with H. Clasper, after fouling a barge, rowed second to Hamerton and Francis, beating Kelly and Rolf, and Bruce and Winship. At the Manchester and Salford Regatta, with R. Chambers, A. Maddison, and H. Clasper, was beaten in the final heat by the breakage of an oar. At the same regatta, was beaten by R. Chambers in a skiff race. At the Northern Rowing Club Regatta, for a prize of a piece of plate, was beaten by G. Strong in the final heat. In September, at Lancaster Regatta, with R. Chambers, T. Brace, and H. Clasper, won the Champion Prize, beating the Taylors' crew; and with H. Clasper, won a pair-oared race, beating the Lancaster pair; and at the Northern Rowing Club Amateur Meeting, won the Silver Medal, beating G. Strong, and eighteen other competitors. On the 14th of June, 1858, with R. Clasper, T. Clasper, and H. Clasper, he beat the four Taylor Brothers, for £20 a side and the Championship of the Tyne. Many were astonished that the Taylors could get backed against such a celebrated family; and one of the metropolitan journals, when speaking of the race, waxed poetical, and exclaimed—

Yonder four, that scarcely shows its line  
Above the gentle ripple of the tide,  
Do, proud to bear, the Clasper of the Tyne—  
The water champions from the Thames to Clyde,  
At the Durham Regatta, the day following the same event, they beat the Tay-



"DUCROW," THE CIRCUS HORSE.

THE PROPERTY OF CHARLES HENGLE, ESQ., OF THE GRAND CIRQUE, LIVERPOOL.



Jora again, for the Patrons' Plate; then, with his father, beat the Taylors for the Mowbray Plate; but had to succumb to Chambers in a scullers' race for the Culbert Plate. At the Manchester Regatta he was beaten in the scullers' race by R. Chambers, and with E. Winslip, H. Ault, and R. Chambers won the Pomona Plate of £50, beating the Taylors' and Manchester crews. At the Tallow-Turn Regatta, won the Botled Will Plate of £5 beating R. Chambers and W. Taylor, and on November 10, beat George Francis on the Thames for £80, 1858. At the Durham Regatta, with H. Clasper, for the Mowbray Plate was beaten by R. Chambers; and with R. Chambers, E. Winslip, and H. Clasper won the Patrons' Plate, beating the Durham crews easily. At the same meeting, won the Cutler-Skill Race, beating R. Chambers and several others, but was beaten by R. Chambers for the Skill Prize. At the Thames National Regatta, won the first heat for the Coat and Badge by beating Francis, Styles, and several others, but was beaten in the final heat by Hemmings and Rogers. With R. Chambers, E. Winslip, and H. Clasper, won the Champion Prize, beating Kelly's and two Hammersmith crews. At the Manchester Regatta, was successful in the first heat, but was beaten in the final heat, by H. Chambers, for the Victoria Plate. For the Trafford Park Stakes, with H. Clasper, beat two other crews, and with R. Chambers, E. Winslip, and H. Clasper won the Pomona Plate of £40. In 1860, at the Durham Regatta won the Skill Race, beating two other crews, lost the fouling race; and with H. Clasper won the first heat for the Mowbray Plate; but was beaten in the final heat by Winslip and Chambers, and with H. Chambers, E. Winslip, and H. Clasper, divided with the Taylors for the Patrons' Plate. In the same year, at the Thames Regatta, with R. Chambers, E. Winslip, and H. Clasper, won the first heat for the Champion Prize, beating Kelly's crew and the Richmond crew; but, by being fouled, lost the final heat, Kelly's crew winning. For the Coat and Badge rowed second to Rogers. At the Derby Regatta, with R. Chambers, E. Winslip, and H. Clasper, beat the Taylors in the first heat, and the London crew in the final heat for a prize of £40. At Falk-Turn Regatta won the Skill Prize, beating W. Taylor, W. Lumley, and R. Clasper. At the Newcastle and Gateshead Regatta, with H. Clasper, beat T. Math and J. Davidson in the first heat, and R. Chambers and E. Winslip in the final heat for the Pair-oar Race, and with Winslip, Chambers, and H. Clasper, beat the Taylors crew for the £20 prize. At the Manchester and Salford Regatta, with R. Chambers, E. Winslip, and H. Clasper, won the Pomona Plate of £20, beating several crews, and with H. Clasper won the Volunteer Prize, 1861. On April 25, he beat Tom Pocock, on the Thames, for £100, and in June, the same year, he again beat Pocock for £100; in the week following he defeated Rogers, on the Thames, for £100. At the Manchester and Salford Regatta, with G. Strong, won the first heat, and rowed there for the final heat in the Impealers' Plate, Chambers and Winslip winning; and, with G. Strong, E. Winslip, and R. Chambers, won the Pomona Plate of £20, beating the Taylors, Skelton, and Colleen Bawn crews, and for the Trafford Park Handicap Stakes won the first heat, beating T. Math, giving him six lengths' start, but was defeated in the first heat by M. Scott, who received eleven lengths' start from him. This extraordinary performance, added to two scratch four-oared races, brings us to his victory over George Drowitt, for £200, a side, on the 28th of May, 1862. At the Durham Regatta, in the succeeding month, with his father (Henry Clasper) he won the first heat of a pair-oar race, but lost the second one. At the same regatta, with E. Winslip, R. Chambers, H. Clasper, Robert Clasper (cox), won the Patrons' Plate, in two heats. At the Thames National Regatta, in the same year, with H. Clasper, ran into a barge, and thereby lost a pair-oar race; but, with E. Winslip, R. Chambers, H. Clasper (stroke), and Robert Clasper (cox), won the £100 Champion Prize. Owing to illness, he did not row at last year; but, it will be seen from the above sketch of his career, Master John could afford to rest on his oar for awhile, for in 53 starts he has won no less than 55 times! He has steered, too, in 22 races and been successful in 16 essays. As a trainer, Clasper has become quite noted in the north; but this is not to be wondered at when we recollect that he has rowed alongside of the celebrated Chambers in all his trials. Mr. T. J. Pickett (the Amateur Champion of the Tyne), the Tyne Amateur Four (who won the Durham and Tallow-Turn Challenge Cup), and the Durham Amateur Four (also winners of the Durham Challenge Cup), owe no little of their celebrity to the training they underwent with young Clasper. John has also commenced business at Durham as a boat-builder, where he has commodious premises at Paradise House, on the banks of the river there, a view of which we give. After ten years practical experience with his father, the world-renowned Henry Clasper, who was the inventor of the present outrigger, we have little doubt as to his commercial success.

## PEDESTRIANISM.

### MATCHES TO COME.

JANUARY.

30.—Phillips and Reed—150 yds, £10 a side, Garratt-lane.  
30.—Ariel and Corsair Bowing Club Athletic Sports, Ashburnham Pavilion, Croydon.

### FEBRUARY.

1.—Parks and Price—115 yards, £10 a side, Ashbur-cross.  
1.—Hughes and Mills—to run five miles, £10 a side, Holloway Head, Birmingham.  
1.—Young Brown, of Fulham, to run 10 miles within the hour, £5 a side, Brompton.  
1.—Slater and Slater—100 yds, £5 a side, St. Thomas's Grounds, Stanningley.  
1.—Foxall and Jones—400 yds, £5 a side, at Aston-ross.  
1.—Hayward and Thompson—120 yds, £5 a side, High-park, Fenton.  
1.—Running matches and other sports for a silver watch, snuffbox, and money prizes, at Hackney Wick—benefit of Old Montjoy.  
1.—Baines and Jones—to run two miles, £10 a side, Baines to have 200 yds start, Brompton.  
1.—Downing and Smith—150 yds, £20, Downing staking £11 to £9. Queen's Hotel, Sheffield. They also bet £20 even.



JOHN HAWKS CLASPER,  
THE CELEBRATED SCULLER AND TRAINER, OF DURHAM.

1. 2.—All England novice handicap, 200 yds, £12 in money prizes, Queen's Hotel, Sheffield.
- 2.—Blatcliffe and Thompson—100 yds, Victoria Grounds, Leeds.
- 3.—McGuire and Whitaker—300 yds, £20 a side, St. George's Ground, Harnley.
- 4.—North London Rowing Club Athletic Sports, Brompton.
- 5.—Cooper and Oats—to run a mile, £5 a side, Victoria Race Ground, Leeds.
- 6.—Ship and Wardlaw—120 yds, £25 a side, St. Thomas's Grounds, Stanningley.
- 7.—Novice handicap 140 yds, several money prizes, Copenhagen Grounds Manchester.

### BROMPTON.

On Saturday last there was a good attendance on Mr. J. Robert's enclosed

ground, when the following events were brought to a satisfactory issue. The sports commenced with the

**FINAL HEAT FOR THE QUARTER OF A MILE HANDICAP, for a Silver Cup,** by gentlemen amateurs, given by the proprietor, the preliminary races for which had been run on Saturday, the 16th inst, when Mr. Berger, 15 yds start, Mr. Armstrong, 40; Mr. Elliott, 50; and Mr. Barnacle, 70, proved the four winners. These being the successful competitors for the quarter of a mile, now contended for the prize. The race was admirably sustained from end to end. The M.C. having got "the team" at their allotted positions, the pistol was fired, when off they dashed, the start being well effected. Mr. Barnacle, from his advanced position, opened the running at a fine bat, followed by Mr. Elliott, while Messrs. Berger and Armstrong came along at a clipping pace. From the style in which Mr. Elliott was running it was apparent he was doing his best to close on his leading opponent; nor was the racing on the part of Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Berger less worthy of praise. When something like 150 yds of the distance had been run Mr. Elliott had diminished the gap between himself and leader by something like a yard; while Mr. Berger, who at starting had been in the rear of all, had likewise lessened the space that separated him from Mr. Armstrong. Although Mr. Barnacle was being severely tried by Mr. Elliott, he proved equal to what was required, and held the advantage of the lead to the finish, defeating Mr. Elliott for first position by three yards. Mr. Berger and Mr. Armstrong at the termination of this fine struggle were so close together that the referee decided they had run a dead heat, and therefore no third was placed. Mr. Berger, however, had pulled in 15 yds upon his man, as will be seen by referring to the respective distances at which they had been handicapped for the start.

**RACE BETWEEN WILLIAMS AND RILEY.**—These men next came on to the ground to run half a mile for £5 a side. The betting was 5 to 4 on Riley, and Mr. Roberts, the proprietor, was chosen referee. The lead was maintained by Williams until making the bend of the course in the second and last lap, when Riley, who had thus far been making a waiting race of it, put on extra steam, and after a sharp struggle for the goal, went in a winner by three yards.

**RACE BETWEEN ALLEN AND FRAGNALL.**—The race between these pedestrians was a spin of 100 yds for £5 a side; Mr. Roberts again officiated as referee. The competitors started by report of pistol, but Fragnall, from his eagerness to obtain the advantage, getting on the "move" before the signal had been given, was out back a yard. On the race being secure, the pedestrians got fairly off. Fragnall, who had the best of the start, soon obtained the lead, which he maintained throughout, and went in the winner of a well-contested race by half a yard.

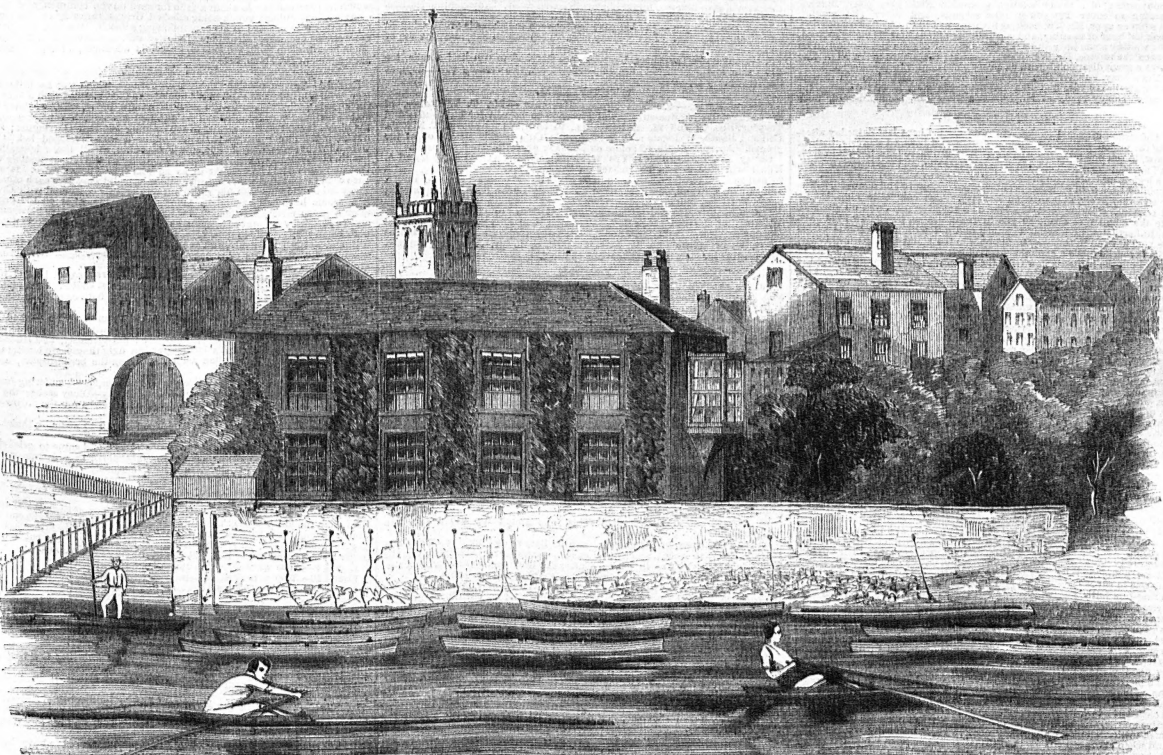
**RACE BETWEEN BRUNS AND ROGERS.**—This was a spin of a quarter of a mile for £5 a side, and when the preparatory matters had been adjusted, the competitors came to the mark. The lead was taken by Bruns, and such a gap did he succeed in placing between him and his competitor, that when something like half the distance had been covered he was fully 15 yds in advance. His friends, of course, concluded that he had the race secure, and ordered him to him at tempting odds, but there were no takers. At this point Rogers seemed to rouse himself in a surprising manner, and from the style in which he diminished the inter-space, showed the race was by no means secure. As the men came along the straight run to the finish Rogers wrestled the lead from his opponent, and went in a clever winner by about two yards. Thus terminated an excellent day's sport.

**GEORGE ANSTNEY AND HEMMURY.**—These pedestrians were to have contended in a race of 110 yds on Monday, for £25 a side, at Mr. J. Roberts' Ground, and as the match produced considerable interest, there was a good muster of the metropolitans present. It was said that the whole of the money had not been made good by the backers of Anstney, although this was asserted to be a mistake on the part of the stakeholder. This, as may be imagined, caused an unpleasant "hitch" in the proceedings; Anstney's backer, while maintaining that the money had been staked, offered again to make the amount good. The referee was now chosen, and Bolton, the provincial runner, appointed to throw the pistol. Delays had now almost brought on darkness as the men toed the scratch. Hemmury, who made a start off before the pistol was fired, was according to running law, placed one yard back; again he went away before the report, and was called back. The referee now told Anstney to run over the ground and put in a claim for the stakes, as it was clear that the object was to prevent any race that day. Thus between the money squabble, the starting squabble, and the waste of daylight, the matter was left undecided. All bets, it is almost superfluous to say, are off.

**WILMOT AND BARRY.**—These men ran an unimportant race of 110 yds, for a small stake, which was won by Wilmot with the greatest ease.

**GEORGE TORRY AND JOHN UNDERWOOD.**—These pedestrians were matched to walk two miles, for £25 a side, and, pursuant to agreement, the event took place on Mr. John Roberts' ground, on Tuesday. The meeting was well attended by the turfites. The competitors had to walk eight laps. Torpy was good deal of money invested, as the partisans of Underwood evinced considerable eagerness to back their man. Torpy, who is not yet out of his "teens," was backed for the present match by W. Price, the M.C. of the Hackney-wick Ground, and from the creditable manner in which he acquitted himself it may be said that he is a promising candidate for pedestrian honours. C. Westall was nominated referee; and, all being got ready, the competitors made to the mark, looking in excellent condition. Torpy had for his attendant the well-known J. Howes, of Stoney; while J. Oliver of Chelsea, looked after Underwood.

The usual practice on this ground has hitherto been to work to the right of the course, passing the embankment at starting; but on this present occasion the pedestrians agreed to reverse the "starting order," thus walking to the left, going up instead of, as usual, coming down the straight. On getting off, Underwood, who made a dash forward to the lead, cut off but not beat his man by more than some two or three yards. On passing the goal for the commencement of the second lap, Underwood still held the lead, but at length he was to the fore, yet there was this notable difference from the usual Underwood made more effort to maintain this trifling advantage than Torpy did to keep well up to his opponent. From this it became apparent to those who knew how to reckon the "point," that Torpy had not as yet put on the high



PARADISE HOUSE, DURHAM.

THE RESIDENCE OF J. H. CLASPER.





traordinary determination, planting on Bluey in quick and telling style. Bluey evidently bothered to account for the turn in the tide of affairs—both down and the finish, side by side.

## RENEWAL OF THE FIGHT

continued to hold the decided lean  
some good illustrations.

somewhat retrieved his position  
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made his points, and got cleverly c

time, the "wooden walls" were "burned" when more of the "burning" was done.

Mr Croxall, on the Derby line. H

## SECOND DAY'S FIGHT

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exchanges Jack being as good as dead  
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still kept the lead, and planted

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a heap.

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mutual advantage. On the home

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HAM, AT 10st.

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The usual route was taken by a

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which was further confirmed by his  
next day offering \$5 to have

Police, however, were there,

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g. 1862) he was defeated by Pollock at Bull Run.

born on the 15th of Jan. 1840, an

a strong and marked contrast.

ents and the Bendigo, looked as if

